

REMARKS

This paper is presented in response to the non-final official action of August 1, 2008, wherein (a) claims 1-10 were pending, (b) claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, (c) claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Avant U.S. 6,676,621 (“Avant”), and (d) claims 2, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 as obvious over Avant in view of Didriksen WO 00/00300 (“Didriksen”).

By the foregoing, claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 9 may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. For example, support may be found at least in paragraphs [0023], [0024], [0026], [0029], [0032], [0033], [0034], [0048], and [0049]. No new matter is added. As a result, claims 1-10 remain pending and at issue.

This paper is timely filed as it accompanies a petition for an automatic one-month extension of time and the required fee.

35 USC § 101 Rejections

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-8 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Each of method claims 1-8 now recites mechanical sorting of mailpieces. Applicants respectfully submit that mechanical sorting of the mailpieces accomplishes a “useful, concrete and tangible result.” See State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74. In particular, the mechanical sorting produces more efficient delivery of the mailpieces. Moreover, the claimed method now transforms an unorganized series of mailpieces into organized subsets of mailpieces that are arranged in order of delivery. Thus, amended claims 1-8 are directed to statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8.

35 USC § 102 Rejections

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10 as anticipated by Avant. Each of claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10 now recites a method (or

device) for processing mailpieces comprising, in part, comparing detected address information with address information present in a plurality of sources of a database. Avant fails to disclose or suggest comparing detected address information with address information present in plural sources of a database. The claimed method and device advantageously provide a system that corrects missing or incorrect delivery information and offers new address choices to a user based on the new address information. In this manner, the claimed method and device allow correction of incorrect or missing address information on a mail piece.

Avant discloses a method for identifying a mailpiece in an identification code sorting system by using an identification code as a redundant source of delivery information. The identification code is linked to an identification file containing identification information corresponding to the mailpiece. The mailpiece generally contains two sources of delivery information, a destination address and a POSTNET code corresponding to the destination address. If the destination address is illegible, the POSTNET code provides an alternative source of delivery information. However, Avant fails to disclose or suggest any method for correcting missing or incorrect delivery information on a mailpiece. Moreover, Avant fails to disclose or suggest comparing detected address information with new address information in several sources of a database, as recited by each of claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10. Rather, Avant simply discloses using redundant codes on a mailpiece in case one of the codes is unreadable. For this reason alone, claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10 cannot be anticipated by Avant.

Each of claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10 also recites sorting and displaying new address information in a selection list. Avant fails to disclose or suggest sorting and displaying new address information in a selection list. Rather, Avant only discloses displaying an image of the mailpiece for manual determination and entry of zip code information. Avant does not even recognize the problem of missing or incorrect address information on a mailpiece. For this additional reason, none of claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10 can be anticipated by Avant.

35 USC § 103 Rejections

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2, 6, and 7 as obvious over Avant in view of Didriksen. Like claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10, each of claims 2, 6, and 7 recites a method (or device) for processing mailpieces comprising, in part, comparing detected address information with address information present in several sources of a database. As shown above, Avant fails to disclose or suggest comparing detected address information with address information present in several sources of a database. Likewise, Didriksen fails to disclose or suggest comparing detected address information with address information present in several sources of a database, nor was Didriksen cited as disclosing such an element.

Didriksen discloses a method of sorting mailpieces including capturing address information and determining whether the captured information is sufficient for automatic sorting. Didriksen fails to even recognize the problem of missing or incorrect address information, let alone how to solve this problem.

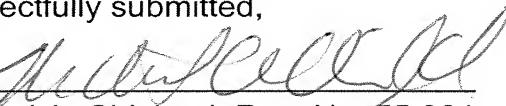
Because Avant and Didriksen both fail to disclose or suggest comparing detected address information with address information present in several sources of a database, none of claims 2, 6, and 7 can be rendered obvious by any combination of Avant and Didriksen. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 6, and 7.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the cited art does not show each and every element of the pending claims, as required to support an anticipation and/or obviousness rejection. Therefore, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn and the present claims passed to issue. Such action is solicited.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, he is urged to telephone the undersigned agent at the indicated number.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michael A. Chinlund, Reg. No. 55,064
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300
Agent for Applicant